

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2006.

Currently, claims 1, 3-12, 25-35, 40-43 and 45-47 are pending.

I. Claim Amendments

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments included herein. The amendments do not necessitate a new search or examination. Instead, the amendments convert two allowable dependent claims to independent claims, change dependencies of some dependent claims, and clarify antecedent basis issues.

II. Claim Informalities

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 47 because of a typo marking the claim as “currently amended” rather than new. The Applicant apologizes for the mistake. The claim status for claim 47 is now properly updated to “previously presented.”

III. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 3-12, 43 and 45-47 are allowed. The Examiner also indicated that claims 25 and 41 are “objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” In accordance with the Examiner, Applicant has rewritten claims 25 and 41 in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim 24. Therefore, Applicant asserts that claims 25 and 41 are in condition for allowance.

IV. Previously Rejected Claims That Are Still Pending

Claims 26-32, 34-35, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. However, Applicant has changed the dependencies so that these claims are now dependent on allowable claims. For example, claims 26-32 and 42 are dependent on claim 47, which the Examiner has allowed.

Claims 33-35 and 40 are dependent on claim 25, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Therefore, Applicants assert that claims 26-35, 40 and 42 are in conditions for allowance.

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this document, including any fee for extension of time, which may be requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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